

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A device useable to connect adjacent vertebrae comprising:
a stabilization member;
a first anchoring member extending from the stabilization member; and,
a second anchoring member extending from the stabilization member;
said stabilization member, said first anchoring member, and said second anchoring member, being of unitary construction.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said stabilization member is porous.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first anchoring member extends perpendicularly from the stabilization member.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said second anchoring member extends perpendicularly from the stabilization member.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second anchoring members are parallel to each other.
6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second anchoring members is substantially cylindrical.
7. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second anchoring members is porous.
8. (Original) A method of stabilizing intervertebral joints comprising:
removing a posterior element from a first vertebra, thereby exposing a first and second vertebral pedicle on the first vertebra;
removing a posterior element from a second vertebra, adjacent the first vertebra, thereby

exposing a first and second vertebral pedicle on the second vertebra;
 removing medial inferior portions of the exposed first and second vertebral pedicles;
 forming holes into the first and second vertebral pedicles on the first and second
 vertebrae;
 providing a first and second device useable to connect adjacent vertebrae, each device
 having:
 a stabilization member;
 a first anchoring member extending from the stabilization member; and,
 a second anchoring member extending from the stabilization member;
 said first and second anchoring members comprising a biocompatible material
 capable of accepting an ingrowth of organic material; and,
 placing the first anchoring member of the first device in the hole formed in the first
 pedicle of the first vertebra;
 placing the second anchoring member of the first device in the hole formed in the first
 pedicle of the second vertebra;
 placing the first anchoring member of the second device in the hole formed in the second
 pedicle of the first vertebra;
 placing the second anchoring member of the second device in the hole formed in the
 second pedicle of the second vertebra; and,
 activating local cellular proliferation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein activating local cellular proliferation comprises:

forming a slurry having stem cells using one or both of the removed posterior elements;
 placing a quantity of the slurry in each of the holes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein activating local cellular proliferation comprises externally activating the anchoring members.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing a slurry of milled autogenous bone and autogenous stem cell materials between the vertebrae and the devices to serve as an osteoblast resource.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing a slurry of milled autogenous bone and bone morphogenic materials between the vertebrae and the devices to serve as an osteoblast resource.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing autogenous fat grafts in proximity to the devices to serve as a resource for fibroblasts.
14. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising fastening the devices to the vertebrae to prevent relative movement therebetween while ingrowth proliferates.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein fastening the devices to the vertebrae to prevent relative movement therebetween while ingrowth proliferates comprises adhering the devices to the vertebrae using an adhesive.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing a cement between the devices and the vertebrae.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing a polymer between the devices and the vertebrae.
18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing an adhesive between the devices and the vertebrae and curing the adhesive.
19. (Original) A method of stabilizing intervertebral joints comprising:
removing a posterior element from a first vertebra, thereby exposing a first and second vertebral pedicle on the first vertebra;

removing a posterior element from a second vertebra, adjacent the first vertebra, thereby exposing a first and second vertebral pedicle on the second vertebra;

removing all of the exposed first and second vertebral pedicles leaving a footprint of the removed pedicles;

forming holes into the first and second vertebral bodies at the pedicle footprint;

providing a first and second device useable to connect adjacent vertebrae, each device having:

- a stabilization member;
- a first anchoring member extending from the stabilization member; and,
- a second anchoring member extending from the stabilization member;

said first and second anchoring members comprising a biocompatible material capable of accepting an ingrowth of organic material; and,

placing the first anchoring member of the first device in the hole formed in the first vertebral body at the first pedicle footprint;

placing the second anchoring member of the first device in the hole formed in the second vertebral body at the first pedicle footprint;

placing the first anchoring member of the second device in the hole formed in the first vertebral body at the second pedicle footprint;

placing the second anchoring member of the second device in the hole formed in the second vertebral body at the second pedicle footprint; and,

activating local cellular proliferation.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein activating local cellular proliferation comprises:

- forming a slurry having stem cells using one or both of the removed posterior elements;
- placing a quantity of the slurry in each of the holes.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein activating local cellular proliferation comprises externally activating the anchoring members.

[[21.]] 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing a slurry of milled autogenous bone and autogenous stem cell materials between the vertebrae and the devices to serve as an osteoblast resource.

[[22.]] 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing a slurry of milled autogenous bone and bone morphogenic materials between the vertebrae and the devices to serve as an osteoblast resource.

[[23.]] 24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein externally activating the anchoring members comprises placing autogenous fat grafts in proximity to the devices to serve as a resource for fibroblasts.

[[24.]] 25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising fastening the devices to the vertebrae to prevent relative movement therebetween while ingrowth proliferates.

[[25.]] 26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[24]] 25 wherein fastening the devices to the vertebrae to prevent relative movement therebetween while ingrowth proliferates comprises adhering the devices to the vertebrae using an adhesive.

[[26.]] 27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 26 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing a cement between the devices and the vertebrae.

[[27.]] 28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 26 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing a polymer between the devices and the vertebrae.

[[28.]] 29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 26 wherein using an adhesive comprises placing an adhesive between the devices and the vertebrae and curing the adhesive.

[[29.]] 30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said biocompatible material capable of accepting an ingrowth of organic material is a porous material.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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[[[30.]]] 31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said first and second anchoring members include a lumen axially disposed therethrough integral flexible spine stabilization device and method.